

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O R 191716Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3026

INFO USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (JAMES R. SCHLESINGER), XG, NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF EUROPEAN VISITS: PRESS POLICY

REF: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 221050

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE QUESTIONS WE BELIEVE ARE MOST
LIKELY TO BE PRESENTED SHOULD SEC. SCHLESINGER MEET THE
PRESS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE FRG. EACH QUESTION IS
FOLLOWED BY A PROPOSED RESPONSE.

2. Q: WHAT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS DID YOU COME TO THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO DISCUSS?
PROPOSED RESPONSE: THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN MY MEET-
ING WITH MY GOOD FRIEND DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER. WE
HAVE MET FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST AND I TRUST WE WILL BE
MEETING OFTEN IN THE FUTURE. DURING THIS PARTICULAR
TRIP I HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH DEFENSE
MINISTER MASON, DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER AND
I WILL SOON BE SEEING FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES.
ALL OF THESE MEETINGS AS WELL AS THE ONE WITH MINISTER
LEBER HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF
THE NATO ALLIANCE. ONE THEME WHICH HAS BEEN COMMON TO
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ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN HOW TO IMPROVE

STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS IN NATO.

3. Q: CAN YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE STATIONING OF THE U.S. BRIGADES IN THE NORTH? WHERE WILL THE SECOND BRIGADE BE STATIONED? HOW MUCH WILL THE MOVE COST? IS THE FRG CONTRIBUTING?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: THIS IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH MINISTER LEBER. IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT TO GO INTO DETAIL ON MATTERS OF THIS SORT WHICH REMAIN IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

4. Q: IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO REMOVE SOME OF ITS NIKE UNITS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS? WHICH ONES? WITH WHAT KINDS OF UNITS WILL THEY BE REPLACED?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF AIR DEFENSE UNITS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS A MATTER WHICH WOULD BE COORDINATED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS. ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THESE UNITS WOULD INSURE THAT NO DEGRADATION IN AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES WOULD OCCUR. DECISIONS INVOLVING THE PHASING OUT OF ARMY/AIR DEFENSE UNITS SUCH AS NIKE-HERCULES WOULD BE COORDINATED IN NATO. CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY MEAN THAT NO WEAPONS SYSTEM CAN BE CONSIDERED SACROSANCT. THIS INCLUDES NIKE-HERCULES.

5. Q. WILL YOU (DID YOU) DISCUSS WITH MINISTER LEBER THE QUESTION OF A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE UNITED STATES? DOES THE UNITED STATES WANT A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG IN LIGHT OF THE RECENTLY IMPROVED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION OF THE U.S.?

(IF THIS MATTER IS RAISED DURING THE SCHLESINGER-LEBER DISCUSSIONS THE TWO SIDES SHOULD AGREE ON A SUITABLE STATEMENT BEFORE MEETING THE PRESS.)

6. Q: DO YOU FORESEE ANY DIMINISHING OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S DEFENSE CAPACITY BECAUSE OF THIS COUNTRY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS BEEN A MODEL FOR ITS NATO ALLIES. THE CREATION OF THREE NEW BRIGADES AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE BUNDESWEHR TO INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE COMMON DEFENSE ARE MATTERS WHICH THE U.S. HAS VIEWED WITH PLEASURE AND APPRECIATION. I KNOW OF NO FRG PLANS TO LESSEN ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENSE.

7. Q: HOW IN YOUR OPINION IS GENERAL HAIG DOING AS

NATO COMMANDER? IS HE PROVIDING THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP IN NATO THAT ALLIANCE NEEDS?
PROPOSED RESPONSE: GENERAL HAIG HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT FORD, MYSELF, AND THE LEADERS OF THE OTHER NATO ALLIES. WE BELIEVE HE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO

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PROVIDE THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP IN NATO THAT THE ALLIANCE REQUIRES.

8. Q: DO YOU FORESEE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN NATO STRATEGY IN THE COMING MONTHS, YEARS?
PROPOSED RESPONSE: NATO STRATEGY IS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGED CONDITIONS, BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL. IT IS NOT A FOSSIL. THEREFORE, I EXPECT THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN THE FUTURE AS THERE HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT A PURPOSE OF MY VISIT.

9. Q: HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES, THE CHIEF ARMS EXPORTER IN THE WORLD, REACT TO REPORTS THAT THE FEDERAL

REPUBLIC IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO BECOME A MAJOR ARMAMENTS
EXPORTER?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY FRG DECISION TO
ATTEMPT TO BECOME A MAJOR ARMAMENTS EXPORTER.

10. Q: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO SOVIET COMPLAINTS THAT
THE MANEUVERS TAKING PLACE IN THE FRG VIOLATE THE
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SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: WE HAVE COMPLIED FULLY WITH THE
HELSINKI ACCORD BY PRESENTING ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND
INVITING OBSERVERS. THIS FULFILLS BOTH THE LETTER AND
THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.
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